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**General and complete disarmament: observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control**

# Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control

## Report of the Secretary-General

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# I. Introduction

1. On 29 November 2002, the General Assembly adopted resolution 56/24 F, entitled "Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control", in paragraph 4 of which the Assembly invited all Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General information on the measures they have adopted to promote the objectives envisaged in the resolution and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report containing that information to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session.

2. Pursuant to that request, the Secretary-General, on 4 March 2002, addressed a note verbale to Member States inviting them to provide information on the subject. The replies received are reproduced in chapter II below. Additional replies received will be issued as addenda to the present report.

# II. Replies received from Governments

## Bulgaria

[Original: English]
[9 May 2002]

1. In order to protect the environment in accordance with current Bulgarian legislation, the competent Bulgarian authority — the Ministry of Defence, undertakes the following activities for the control, reduction and elimination of the contamination which could occur during military training and the destruction and demilitarization of military equipment and property in the areas and sites managed by the Bulgarian Army:

(a) A Concept for Environmental Protection from the Influence of Adverse Anthropogenic and Natural Factors and for Environmental Protection has been developed and implemented in the areas and sites where the Bulgarian army carries out military activities;

(b) Ecological passports have been introduced and regularly maintained in the military units, and permanent commissions on environmental protection have been put in place to monitor the daily situation;

(c) In view of the complexity of the national ecological problem, activities are planned and carried out in close cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Water, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy and the "Civil Protection" State agency;

(d) A number of measures for protection of the environment during training of Bulgarian and international military contingents have been developed and applied in accordance with environmental protection norms;

(e) A special order has been established for the collection, transportation and permanent conservation of radioactive waste. Safety measures for the use and management of toxic chemical substances are being implemented;

(f) The Information Collection and Analysis Centre has been set up to take prompt decisions and immediate action for the protection of military personnel and the environment in case of emergencies and natural disasters. The Centre provides information in summary form on the radioactive and chemical situation on the territory of Bulgaria to the National Military Command Centre;

(g) Ecological monitoring and pollution control in the areas and sites in which the Bulgarian army is quartered are carried out by the Central Laboratory for Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Protection and Ecological Control.

2. Experts from the Ministry of Defence are involved in development, coordination and endorsement of projects and the elaboration of legislative and governmental norms in the field of environmental protection.

## Jordan

[Original: Arabic]
[23 April 2002]

With reference to your letter dated 20 March 2002 concerning the observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control, I wish to inform you, particularly in connection with nuclear weapons and materials, that we shall endeavour to observe international guidelines in this area through the local arrangements and directives issued by the

Jordanian Nuclear Energy Authority concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Please take any steps you consider appropriate to safeguard the interest of Jordan in the drafting of such agreements, bearing in mind that Jordan is a non-nuclear State.

## Poland

[Original: English]
[14 May 2002]

1. Poland attaches importance to the protection of the environment in formulating its policy. The Constitution of the Republic of Poland affirms that Poland "shall ensure the protection of the natural environment pursuant to the principles of sustainable development" (article 5). The Constitution also states that:

> "1. Public authorities shall pursue policies ensuring the ecological security of current and future generations.
>
> "2. Protection of the environment shall be the duty of public authorities.
>
> "3. Everyone shall have the right to be informed of the quality of the environment and its protection.
>
> "4. Public authorities shall support the activities to protect and improve the quality of the environment." (article 74)
>
> "Everyone shall care for the quality of the environment and shall be held responsible for causing its degradation. The principles of such responsibility shall be specified by statute." (article 86)

2. Accordingly, in order to realize the aforementioned principles as well as to honour Poland's international commitments, the following regulations provide specific measures:

- Law on the protection of the environment of 27 April 2001;
- Law on the common defence duty of 21 November 1967 (subsequently amended);
- Law on the office of the Ministry of National Defence of 14 December 1995;
- Regulations of the Council of Ministers on the bestowal charter of the Ministry of National Defence of 9 July 1996;
- Regulations of the Council of Ministers on detailed scope of activity of the Minister of National Defence of 9 July 1996;
- Decision No. 30 of the Minister of National Defence on the principles of the realization of tasks related to the protection of the environment in the Ministry of National Defence of 22 February 2001.

3. In the above-mentioned Decision No. 30, the Minister of National Defence imposes a duty of protecting the natural environment and resources upon each soldier and civil servant and also obligates persons in executive posts in the Ministry to organize undertakings in the full range of environmental protection and to create conditions for the observance of the relevant legal regulations.

4. Both the National Defence Strategy of the Republic of Poland, adopted by the Council of Ministers on 4 January 2000, and the Environmental Protection Policy of the Ministry of National Defence, issued by the Minister of National Defence, constitute the basis of the long-term programmes on environmental protection with respect to the implementation of obligations resulting from international agreements and military cooperation.

5. The fulfilment of its obligations under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction may serve as a good example of the compliance of Poland with environmental norms. The technology and equipment for destroying adamsite was prepared and brought into operation by Polish specialists under the observance of very rigorous norms, with special attention to the management of wastes and other by-products. The process was carried out under the supervision of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

## Qatar

[Original: Arabic]
[29 April 2002]

Inasmuch as Qatar is bound by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and on the basis of its commitment to international instruments, to make the Middle East region a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons, would be a major contribution to the establishment of peace, security and stability in the region. We emphasize that this initiative should be binding on all States without exception.